

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02740 230921Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 CU-04 /089 W  
-----090043 230930Z /20

P R 230806Z NOV 77  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9228  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2740

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: CH VN

SUBJ: LE DUAN DEPARTS FOR CANTON: PEKING RUMORS

REF: PEKING 2717

1. SUMMARY: SPECULATION IS MOUNTING AMONG DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS IN PEKING THAT TALKS DURING THE LE DUAN VISIT WERE STRAINED. WHILE NO GUARANTEED INFORMATION HAS YET FILTERED OUT, PRC MEDIA TREATMENT HAS BEEN MUCH MORE RESTRAINED THAN LE DUAN'S VISIT TO PEKING IN SEPTEMBER 1975. END SUMMARY.

2. VIETNAM COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY LE DUAN LEFT PEKING 1500 HOURS NOVEMBER 23 FOR CANTON AFTER  
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SEVERAL DAYS OF TALKS. DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS HERE ARE DESCRIBING THE VISIT AS "SOUR" AND "STRAINED" AND ARE SPECULATING THAT THE DIFFERENCES AIDED IN LE DUAN'S NOVEMBER 20 BANQUET SPEECH (REFTEL) WERE ONLY SURFACE MANIFESTATIONS OF PROBLEMS SUBSEQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED IN LE DUAN'S TALKS WITH HUA KUO-FENG AND OTHER PRC LEADERS. IN FACT NCNA ANNOUNCEMENTS FAILED

TO DESCRIBE THE TALKS AS "FRATERNAL" WHICH HAD BEEN USED TO DESCRIBE PREVIOUS SINO-VIETNAMESE DISCUSSIONS. ALTHOUGH NO HARD INFORMATION HAS SURFACED, WE NOTE THAT PRC MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IS MUCH MORE RESTRAINED (TV COVERAGE OF THE NOVEMBER 20 BANQUET WAS SOMBER WITH FEW SMILES ON EITHER SIDE) THAN COVERAGE DURING LE DUAN'S SEPTEMBER 25 VISIT. PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS NOT CARRIED THE USUAL COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LE DUAN VISIT --A PRACTICE THT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMON FOR FAVORED VISITORS.

2. LE DUAN DID NOT HOST A RETURN BANQUET FOR HIS CHINESE HOSTS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM PEKING, WHICH HAS INCREASED THE SPECULATION THAT THE TALKS BECAME UNPLEASANT. NEVERTHELESS, THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY HELD A RECEPTION NOVEMBER 22, PRESUMABLY FOR THE VISITING DELEGATION AND THEIR CHINESE HOSTS. NO FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WERE INVITED. EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD

EXPECT THE VIETNAMESE TO HOLD A RETURN BANQUET IN PEKING, WE NOTE LE DUAN DID NOT HOST A RETURN BANQUET DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 25 VISIT AND RECENT HIGH LEVEL VISITORS HAVE NOT HELD THEIR RETURN BANQUETS UNTIL THERE LAST NIGHT IN THE PRC AFTER A PROVINCIAL TOUR. WE HAVE HEARD  
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THAT LE DUAN DEPARTS CANTON FOR HANOI, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25.  
WOODCOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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